

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AS-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 (ISO) R

DRAFTED BY NEA:PDCONSTABLE:JGB

APPROVED BY NEA:SSOBER

S/S: CABORG

UCG:LCJOHNSTONE

S: JCOVEY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY DACCA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 213667

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR BD US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH BANGALDESH

-- FOREIGN MINISTER

1. SUMMARY: IN A CORDIAL 30-MINUTE CONVERSATION WITH BANGALDESH FOREIGN MINISTER CHOWDHURY, SECRETARY ASSURED HIM US WISHED BANGLADESH REGIME WELL, SAID THAT US WANTED TO SEE NEW GOVERNMENT SUCCEED AND PLEDGED EFFORTS TO DO ALL WE CAN TO HELP WITH BANGLADESH'S FOOD AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE REQUIREMENTS. CHOWDHURY WELCOMED SECRETARY'S ASSURANCES, SAID BANGLADESH LOOKED TO US TO HELP NEW GOVERNMENT AND ASKED FOR ADDITIONAL FOOD ASSISTANCE UNDER PL 480 TITLE II. CHOWDHURY ALSO NOTED THAT RELATIONS WITH INDIA NOW STABILIZED AND IMPROVING RAPIDLY WITH PAKISTAN AND CHINA. END SUMMARY

2. SECRETARY MET WITH FOREIGN MINISTER CHOWDHURY  
CONFIDENTIAL

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SEPTEMBER 6 IN NEW YORK. CHOWDHURY ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE M. R. SIDDIQI AND FORMER AMBASSADOR TO US HOSSAIN ALI. ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY SOBER AND NEA/PAB DIRECTOR CONSTABLE SAT IN. CHOWDHURY CON-

VEYED ORAL GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT MUSHTAQUE AHMED TO PRESIDENT FORD AND NOTED HIS SPECIAL PERSONAL PLEASURE IN MEETING SECRETARY, WHOM HE PRAISED FOR HIS INNOVATIVE

IDEAS. CHOWDHURY DESCRIBED INTERNAL SITUATION IN BANGLADESH AS STABILIZED, BUT EMPHASIZED ECONOMIC CHALLENGES THE NEW REGIME FACES. CHOWDHURY APPEALED FOR 200,000 TONS OF RICE UNDER TITLE II AND PROVISION OF LOWER-PRICED WHEAT RATHER THAN RICE, UNDER TITLE I. HE ALSO REQUESTED ADDITIONAL HELP UNDER PL 480 IN COTTON AND VEGETABLE OIL AND ASSISTANCE ON A NEW FERTILIZER PLANT.

3. IN RESPONSE TO CHOWDHURY, SECRETARY SAID THAT WE WISHED THE NEW GOVERNMENT WELL, THAT WE HOPED IT WOULD SUCCEED, AND THAT WE WANT TO COOPERATE WITH IT TO THE GREATEST EXTENT POSSIBLE. NOTING THAT THE ENORMOUS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS FACED BY BANGLADESH WERE NOT SOLUBLE BY OUTSIDE FORCES, THE SECRETARY SAID THAT WE WILL DO WHAT WE CAN TO HELP ON FOOD AND OTHER ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, WITHIN OUR OWN OBVIOUS LIMITS. THE SECRETARY SAID THAT WE WOULD REVIEW OUR PROGRAMMED ASSISTANCE LEVELS IN LIGHT OF THE SPECIFIC REQUESTS THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAD MADE TO SEE IF THERE WERE WAYS WE COULD BE HELPFUL.

4. CHOWDHURY NOTED WITH GREAT SATISFACTION THE SECRETARY'S STATEMENT THAT US WANTED THE NEW BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT TO SUCCEED AND SAID HE PLANNED TO REPORT THAT BY PHONE TO PRESIDENT MUSHTAQUE AHMED TODAY.

5. IN RESPONSE TO THE SECRETARY'S QUESTION ON THE FOREIGN POLICY OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT, CHOWDHURY SAID THE BDG WOULD MAINTAIN ITS NON-ALIGNED POSTURE OF "FRIENDSHIP TOWARD ALL AND MALICE TOWARD NONE." HE SAID RELATIONS WITH INDIA HAD STABILIZED, AFTER A PERIOD OF "MARKING TIME" BY THE INDIANS, AND WERE RAPIDLY IMPROVING WITH PAKISTAN AND THE PRC.

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 26 AUG 1999  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 09 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE213667  
**Document Source:** ADS  
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**Drafter:** NEA:PDCONSTABLE:JGB  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** 11652 GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
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**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 04 AUG 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, BD, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (CHOWDHURY)  
**To:** DACCA  
NEW DELHI  
ISLAMABAD  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006